

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~[[An]]~~ A composition, comprising:
an immunomodulatory polynucleotide/microcarrier (IMP/MC) complex, said complex
comprising ~~[[.]]~~ a polynucleotide comprising an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) linked to a nonbiodegradable microcarrier (MC), wherein the ISS comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of 5'-TCGAAAA-3', 5'-TCGCCCC-3', 5'-TCGGGGG-3', 5'-TCGTTTT-3' and 5'-TCGTCGX₁-3', wherein X₁ is a nucleotide, and wherein the polynucleotide is less than about 200 nucleotides in length; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is covalently linked to said microcarrier.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is non-covalently linked to said microcarrier.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said microcarrier is a liquid phase microcarrier.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said microcarrier is a solid phase microcarrier.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said microcarrier is from 10 nm to 10 μ m in size.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 6, wherein said microcarrier is from 25 nm to 5 μ m in size.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said complex is antigen-free.

Claims 9-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-TCGTCGA-3'.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of ~~claims~~ claim 1, or 14, wherein said complex further comprises an antigen.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 16, wherein said antigen is an allergen.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The ~~IMP/MC complex~~ composition of claim 18, wherein said phosphate backbone modification is a phosphorothioate.

Claim 20 (previously presented): An immunomodulatory polynucleotide/microcarrier (IMP/MC) complex, comprising:

a polynucleotide linked to a nonbiodegradable microcarrier (MC), wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence 5'-TCG-3' and wherein the polynucleotide is 7 nucleotides in length.

Claim 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): The IMP/MC complex of claim 20, wherein the polynucleotide consists of the sequence 5'-TCGX₁X₂X₃X₄-3' or the sequence 5'-X₁TCGX₂X₃X₄-3', wherein X₁, X₂, X₃, X₄ are nucleotides.

Claim 23 (original): The IMP/MC complex of claim 22, wherein the polynucleotide consists of the sequence 5'-TCGTCGX₁-3', wherein X₁ is a nucleotide.

Claim 24 (original): The IMP/MC complex of claim 22, wherein the polynucleotide consists of a sequence selected from the group consisting of 5'-TCGTCGA-3', 5'-TCGAAAA-3', 5'-TCGCCCC-3', 5'-TCGGGGG-3' and 5'-TCGTTTT-3'.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The IMP/MC complex of claim 20, wherein said polynucleotide comprises two copies of the sequence 5'-TCG-3'.

Claim 26 (original): The IMP/MC complex of claim 20, wherein said complex further comprises an antigen.

Claim 27 (original): The IMP/MC complex of claim 26, wherein said antigen is an allergen.

Claim 28 (original): The IMP/MC complex of claim 20, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

Claim 29 (original): The IMP/MC complex of claim 28, wherein said phosphate backbone modification is a phosphorothioate.

Claims 30-55 (canceled)

Claim 56 (previously presented): A kit, comprising:

an immunomodulatory polynucleotide/microcarrier (IMP/MC) complex, said complex comprising a polynucleotide linked to a nonbiodegradable microcarrier (MC), wherein said polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of 5'-TCGAAAA-3', 5'-TCGCCCC-3', 5'-TCGGGGG-3', 5'-TCGTTTT-3' and 5'-TCGTCGX₁-3', wherein X₁ is a nucleotide, and wherein the polynucleotide is less than about 200 nucleotides in length; and instructions for use of IMP/MC complex in immunomodulation of an individual.

Claim 57 (original): The kit of claim 56, wherein said polynucleotide is covalently linked to said microcarrier.

Claim 58 (original): The kit of claim 56, wherein said polynucleotide is non-covalently linked to said microcarrier.

Claim 59 (original): The kit of claim 56, wherein said microcarrier is a liquid phase microcarrier.

Claim 60 (original): The kit of claim 56, wherein said microcarrier is a solid phase microcarrier.

Claim 61 (original): The kit of claim 56, wherein said microcarrier is from 10 nm to 10 μ m in size.

Claim 62 (original): The kit of claim 61, wherein said microcarrier is from 25 nm to 5 μ m in size.

Claim 63 (original): The kit of claim 56, wherein said complex is antigen-free.

Claims 64-68 (canceled)

Claim 69 (previously presented): The kit of claim 56, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence 5'-TCGTCTGA-3'.

Claim 70 (canceled)

Claim 71 (previously presented): The kit of claims 56 or 69, further comprising an antigen.

Claim 72 (original): The kit of claim 71, wherein said antigen is an allergen.

Claim 73 (original): The kit of claim 56, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

Claim 74 (original): The kit of claim 73, wherein said phosphate backbone modification is a phosphorothioate.

Claim 75 (previously presented): A kit, comprising:
the IMP/MC complex of any of claims 20, 22, 23, and 24; and
instructions for use of IMP/MC complex in immunomodulation of an individual.

Claim 76 (currently amended): A composition comprising the IMP/MC complex of ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 77 (original): A composition according to claim 76, wherein the composition is antigen-free.

Claim 78 (original): A composition according to claim 76, wherein the composition further comprises an antigen.

Claim 79 (original): A composition according to claim 78, wherein the antigen is an allergen.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The kit of claim 56 or claim 75, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.